



# Michigan **FIRE** Service Connection

**Rich Miller**  
**State Fire Marshal**

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## MISSION

To provide for the protection of persons and property from exposure to the dangers of fire through inspection and fire prevention and to serve the training needs of over 30,000 fire fighters in the state of Michigan.

January 2015

Members of the Michigan Fire Service Community:

As we begin 2015, I encourage you to make two very important New Year's resolutions. First, make your safety a top priority. Second, resolve to get involved to help ensure greater fire safety in the future.

All of you promote safety within your communities; safety with fireworks, candles, Christmas trees, turkey fryers, etc. This year, focus on making your safety a priority; at your station houses, while driving apparatus, fighting fires, and even training.

Second, I ask that you get involved by directly providing your input toward either amending existing or developing new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and International Code Council (ICC) codes and standards. Your opinion and experience is invaluable and your input matters. Effective fire safety and building codes save lives and must be continually re-evaluated and revised for greater life safety standards. These codes impact every building, process, service, design and installation to protect the public. Codes affect firefighting tactics, strategies and hard items you touch everyday such as fire trucks, hoses, ladders, fire sprinklers, fire alarms, station design etc. Federal agencies use codes and standards as the basis for developing Federal regulations concerning fire safety.

Not only is it important it's easier than ever for you to give input on the revision of codes and standards, and it's free! For more information go to the NFPA website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) or ICC website at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).

Safety is our business.

Regards,

Richard W. Miller  
State Fire Marshal

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# STAFF UPDATES

## New BFS Employees



### **Mike Greis, Fire Fighter Training Division**

The Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) would like to welcome back Mike to the Fire Fighter Training Division (FFTD). Mike has worked with the fire service for a total of 38 years, 11 of which were spent with the FFTD. Prior to that he worked at the Kalamazoo Fire Department and the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety as a fire fighter/paramedic and eventually retired as the chief training officer.



### **Adam Dailide, Plan Review Division**

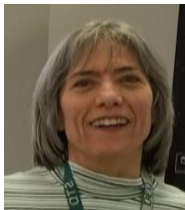
Adam joins the Plan Review Division with more than seven years of experience in land surveying, architectural office and educational management. He also has a master's and bachelor's degree in architecture.



### **Jim Rasanen, Gaylord Regional Office**

BFS also welcomes back Jim to the Gaylord Region as a fire safety inspector. He is a certified fire inspector through the Bureau holding both state fire inspector and NFPA fire inspector certifications.

## Other Staff Updates



### **Lee Mullen, Storage Tank Division**

Lee retired from the state of Michigan this month after 40 years of service, thirteen of which she served as a secretary with the Storage Tank Division (STD). We appreciate her dedication and wish Lee well on her retirement.



### **Thomas H. Buttrick, Storage Tank Division, Gaylord Region**

The Bureau regrets to report that on November 13, 2014, Tom passed away while on a hunting trip. He started with the Storage Tank Program on October 11, 1993, when the program was with the Michigan State Police. Tom will be missed by all who knew him.

# PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

## **Ban on New Antifreeze Sprinkler Systems**

Effective December 1, 2014, BFS will not permit new installations of antifreeze sprinkler systems in state-regulated facilities. [NFPA](#) has been researching safety concerns regarding antifreeze sprinkler systems for several years now. The latest findings confirm that even when lower concentrations of antifreeze are used there are still fire safety issues. The main safety issue is the combustibility of antifreeze solutions in sprinkler systems. BFS is following NFPA's lead and will not approve new installations of antifreeze sprinkler systems until a listed antifreeze solution can be found. This impacts BFS regulated facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, adult foster care facilities, home for the aged facilities, schools, colleges, universities and penal facilities.

Because few new antifreeze sprinkler system submittals have been received this past year, BFS believes that many sprinkler companies are also being proactive and are finding other sprinkler solutions. If you have questions regarding how this change will affect a specific project, please contact the Plan Review Division at 517-241-8847.

## **Long Term Care Projects**

On October 12, 2014, the inspection process for Long Term Care (LTC) facilities was transferred from BFS to Bureau of Health Care Services (BHCS).

BFS will continue to provide plan review services for LTC projects. Questions regarding plan submittals for LTC projects can be directed to the Plan Review Division in BFS.

Please note: Information pertaining to the inspection process for LTC facilities can be found by accessing the following link: [Bureau of Health Care Services - Long Term Care Division](#)

# FIRE SAFETY CODES

## School Safety Drill Requirements

Effective July 1, 2014, Public Act (PA) 12 of 2014 amended [Section 29.19](#) of [PA 207 of 1941, Michigan Fire Prevention Code](#) which deals specifically with school safety drill requirements.

### Fire Drills

- A minimum of 5 fire drills is required for each school year for a school that operates any of grades kindergarten to 12.
- Three of the fire drills shall be held by December 1 of the school year,
- Two shall be held during the remaining part of the school year, with a reasonable spacing interval between each drill.

### Other Drills (Lock Down)

- A minimum of 3 drills in which the occupants are restricted to the interior of the building and the building secured is required for each school year at a school that operates any of grades kindergarten to 12.
- At least 1 of these drills shall be conducted by December 1 of the school year,
- At least 1 shall be conducted after January 1 of the school year, with a reasonable spacing interval between each drill. A drill conducted under this subsection shall include security measures that are appropriate to an emergency such as the release of a hazardous material or the presence of a potentially dangerous individual on or near the premises.

For more information, please go to the Bureau of Fire Services website at [www.michigan.gov/bfs](http://www.michigan.gov/bfs), and click on [School Safety-Tornado, Fire Safety & Lock Down Drills](#)



## Health Care Facility Rule Update

On December 23, 2014, the 2013 Health Care Facilities Fire Safety Rules became effective. This rule adopts the 2012 edition of the NFPA Life Safety Code. The new rules can be found at: [Public Acts and Administrative Rules](#) page on the Bureau website.

The rule amendments were kept at a minimum to ensure that the 2013 Rules would not be in conflict with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Some of the new provisions with the rules to be aware of are:

- Relaxing of egress requirements for mechanical access only spaces
- Provision for fixed seating in corridors to provide a more home-like environment
- Revision of the design limitations for suites
- Ability to create converted storage areas in fully sprinkled red buildings with a maximum area of 250 sq. ft. and separated by smoke partitions
- All high-rise buildings (floors greater than 75 ft. from the lowest level of fire department access) must be retrofitted with sprinkler protection within 12 years
- Clear limitations on the use of combustible decorations
- Exemption of 96 gal. paper recycling bins as hazards when meeting certain criteria
- Changes within NFPA 110 for generator maintenance and load testing

## Proposed Rule Updates

Please look for changes to the following rules later this year:

- New and Existing School, College and University Fire Safety
- Dormitory Fire Safety for Schools, Colleges, and Universities
- New and Existing Penal Institutions Fire Safety
- Fire Fighters Training Council General Rules

You can also view these proposed rule changes on the [Public Acts and Administrative Rules](#) page on the Bureau website.

# FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING DIVISION

## Non IMS County Training Fund Application

According to [PA 291 of 1966, Firefighters Training Council Act](#), as amended, county funding has been allocated based on the formula defined in the Act. Each county training chairperson has been tasked with surveying the fire chiefs in their county on their training needs. The allocation is recommended to be used for the Firefighters Training Council (FFTC) courses listed in the Information Management System ([IMS](#)).

If you chose to use your county funds for a course not listed in the IMS system, complete the Non IMS County Training Fund Application ([BFS-201](#)). Completed application form may be submitted to your region coordinator either by fax or email to Region 1 Coordinator, Dan Hammerberg at [HammerbergD@michigan.gov](mailto:HammerbergD@michigan.gov) or to Region 2 Coordinator, Gary Crum at [Crumg@michigan.gov](mailto:Crumg@michigan.gov) or by facsimile to 517-332-1427.

## Instructor and Grant Payments

In order for instructors and grant recipients to receive payments they must:

- Register as a vendor with the State of Michigan at [www.cpexpress.state.mi.us](http://www.cpexpress.state.mi.us).
- Complete the Fire Fighter Training Division (FFTD) form [BFS 250A](#).
- Submit any associated receipts for items listed on this form. The state funding total shown is the maximum amount that the FFTC will approve for each class or grant request. Please note: The State of Michigan retains the right to audit any funded course using State of Michigan funds.
- Any miscellaneous expenses must be listed in the assigned boxes and will reduce the total amount available in the person/institution payment boxes to the left.
- The box labeled total of state funds must not exceed the state funding total box.

This form is available on the Bureau website at [www.michigan.gov/bfs](http://www.michigan.gov/bfs). If you have any questions contact BreeAnn Hooker at by telephone at 517-241-0686 or by e-mail at [hookerb@michigan.gov](mailto:hookerb@michigan.gov).

## IMS Questions, Password Resets?

Contact the following Bureau staff:

Region 1 Coordinator	Region 2 Coordinator
Dan Hammerberg 906-786-0760	Gary Crum 616-447-2689



# FIREWORKS PROGRAM

## Application

The online Consumer Fireworks Retail Sales (CFRS) [application](#) period began January 1, 2015, and will remain open through April 1, 2015. Returning applicants may find that the questions on the application have changed. These changes will allow staff to process applications, plan review and inspections more efficiently. Applicants may refer to the [2015 Application Process Tutorial](#) for guidance.

## Delegation Program

The Fireworks Delegation of Authority Authorization application period closed December 2, 2014. Currently there are 71 pending Fireworks Delegation of Authority Authorization applications for 2015.

## Enforcement

Due to prior year sales and safety issues, the Bureau has implemented a fireworks enforcement task group to ensure all retailers who sell fireworks maintain compliance with [PA 256 of 2011, the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act](#). During normal business hours complaints can be directed to 517-373-7441 or to [fireworks@michigan.gov](mailto:fireworks@michigan.gov). After business hours complaints can be directed to the fireworks complaint hotline at 1-855-345-6442.

## Appeals

Effective January 2015, several improvements have been made to the appeals process which are listed below for your reference.

- For information regarding violations and appeals you may refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions – Fireworks Violations & Fireworks Citation Appeals](#) available on the Bureau website.
- Questions and concerns may be directed to [fireworksappeal@michigan.gov](mailto:fireworksappeal@michigan.gov).
- Violations payments can now be paid by credit card online. Please find detailed instructions on making credit card payments online at: [Fireworks Citation Civil Fine Online Payments](#).



# STORAGE TANK DIVISION

## Regulated Rules

Over the past two years, the Storage Tank Division (STD) has worked with industry, stakeholders and the regulated community to update rules regulated by the STD. These rules include:

- Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids (FL/CL) Rules
- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Rules (Vehicular Gaseous Fuel Systems)
- Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases (LPG) Rules.

The rule reviews were completed by ad hoc committees with members from the STD, industry trade associations, tank owner associations, fire service associations, and various other regulated entities. The committees adopted the latest NFPA pamphlets making a few state specific additions and amendments to create the new rules for the state of Michigan.

### [Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids \(FL/CL\) Rules](#)

The FL/CL Rules regulate all aboveground storage tank systems containing a liquid with a flashpoint less than 200 degrees Fahrenheit. However, the FL/CL Rules also impact some regulations for underground tanks and containers. The main categories in these rules are Part 2 - Bulk Storage Tanks, Part 3 – Motor Vehicle Fueling, Part 4 – Oil Burning Equipment, and Part 5 – Emergency Generators. These rules were last updated in 2003. These rules adopt by reference NFPA Pamphlets:

- 30 (2012 Edition)
- 30A (2012 Edition)
- 31 (2011 Edition)
- 37 (2010 Edition)

### [Compressed Natural Gas \(CNG\) Rules \(Vehicular Gaseous Fuel Systems\)](#)

The CNG Rules apply to the design and installation of gaseous engine fuel systems on vehicles and associated fuel-dispensing systems. These rules were last updated in 1996. These rules adopt by reference NFPA Pamphlet 52 (2013 Edition)

### [Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases \(LPG\) Rules.](#)

The LPG Rules apply to the operation of all liquefied petroleum gas systems. These rules were last updated in 2008. These rules adopt by reference NFPA Pamphlet 58 (2014 Edition)

Although the rules were reviewed by the committee in a sequential order, they were submitted to the legislature at the same time. A hearing was held on October 6, 2014, where the legislature took comments from the public and reviewed the rule packages. On this same day they waived the remaining allotted review time and approved all three sets of rules, which took effect seven days later on October 13, 2014.

Copies of the rules can be found at: [Hazardous Materials Storage Tank Division](#) on the Bureau's website. Because the adopted pamphlets are copyrighted, we can only post the State specific additions and amendments. Copies of the pamphlet must be viewed or obtained from the [NFPA](#).

# NFIRS



## National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Updates

The Bureau's website has been updated to include a new [National Fire Incident Reporting System](#) webpage. The information provided will include:

- Compliance statistics
- 2014 NFIRS 5.0 Coding Question Manual
- US Fire Administration (USFA)/NFIRS Resources
- NFIRS online password reset (allows users to reset their own password)
- New NFIRS v5.95 Warning Messages
- Bulk Import Utility Instructions
- Tips for completing the 5.0 NFIRS modules

# MICHIGAN FIRE SERVICE DIRECTORY

## Updates

The Michigan Fire Service Directory has been updated; you may check your department's information at: [Michigan Fire Service Directory](#).

To update your department's information you must complete the [Fire Service Directory Update Form](#). This form can be found on the Bureau website under forms and publications, frequently used forms. You may submit the form by fax to 517-332-1427, or by e-mail to [nfirs@michigan.gov](mailto:nfirs@michigan.gov), or mail to Bureau of Fire Services, Attn: Rhonda Howard, PO Box 30700, Lansing, MI 48909. Thank you in advance for your help to keep the most accurate information in the directory.

# OTHER NEWS



**National Fire Protection Association**

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

## NFPA releases 2013 U.S. Firefighter Injuries Report

More than 65,000 injuries occurred in the line of duty. More information can be found at: [U.S. Firefighter Injury Report](#).



People Helping People Build a Safer World™

## ICC Government Relations Update

ICC's new cloud-based system (cdpACCESS) allows for online collaboration, code change and public comment submittals, submission of floor modifications, and online voting.

For those who haven't yet had a chance to use cdpACCESS in the code development cycle (or those who just need a refresher), ICC is offering a series of free webinars to help guide first-time (and second-time) users of cdpACCESS in the code change proposal and collaboration process. For a list of webinar dates and times go to: [www.iccsafe.org/cs/cdpACCESS](http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/cdpACCESS)

**Go to the ICC website to read more information on:**

- Online Governmental Consensus Vote Results Now Available
- IAS Corner: Accreditation Committee Hearings Scheduled for February 2015
- Get Involved in Code Development in Person or Online
- Fire Code Officials Utilize the Cloud to Develop Fire Safety and Building Construction Codes
- Make A Difference – Improve the Safety of Firefighters and the Public in the Built Environment



## Lenovo Recalls Computer Power Cords Due to Fire and Burn Hazards

CPSC announced that Lenovo recalled 540,000 computer power cords; the recall indicates the AC power cord can overheat posing a fire and burn hazard. Lenovo has received 15 reports of overheating, sparking, melting and burning. No injuries have been reported.

More information can be found at: <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Recalls/2015/Lenovo-Recalls-Computer-Power-Cords/>

## Unintended Acceleration Risk Prompts Fire Truck Recall

Pierce Manufacturing is recalling 185 Quantum fire trucks because of faulty accelerator pedal springs. The recall, which is set to begin in January, affects fire apparatus manufactured from February 21, 2008, to April 25, 2011. Vehicle owners can reach the Pierce Customer Service Department at 888-974-3723. Please reference recall number: 74B25.

More information can be found at: [Unintended Acceleration Risk Prompts Fire Truck Recall](#)

## Pierce Recalls Fire Trucks for Suspensions



Pierce Manufacturing is also recalling 135 Pierce Enforcer, Impel, Quantum, Velocity and Arrow XT fire trucks equipped with TAK-4 front independent suspensions. The emergency vehicles – manufactured from Nov. 11, 2009, to April 23, 2013 – may have front lower control arms that are at risk for cracking and fracturing. Pierce dealers will inspect and replace the lower control arms, as necessary, free of charge. The recall began in November 2014. Vehicle owners can reach the Pierce Customer Service Department at 888-974-3723. Please reference recall number: 74B257.

More information can be found at: [Pierce Recalls Fire Trucks for Suspensions](#)

## Firefighters Show Proper Turkey Frying to Prevent Thanksgiving Day Blaze

Members of the Midland Fire Department, joined by State Fire Marshal Rich Miller, hosted an informational demonstration on turkey fryer safety Monday, November 17, 2014 at the department's training house.

Josh Mosher, Midland's fire marshal and former BFS employee, noted the importance of getting proper fire safety information out to the public ahead of the holiday.



"The number one day for structure fires is Thanksgiving,"

Mosher said. As the popularity of deep-fried turkeys has risen, Mosher noted that Midland County has dealt with two structure fires on the holiday in recent years.

"It's essential to read the manufacturer's recommendations before you start cooking and never do any frying indoors," Miller said.



Left to Right: Joshua Mosher, Midland Fire Marshal; Richard Miller, State Fire Marshal, Chris Coughlin, Midland Fire Chief

More information can be found at: [Firefighters Show Proper Turkey Frying to Prevent Thanksgiving Day Blaze](#)

## Michigan Fire Chief Conference - February 27-28, 2015

For information on the Michigan Fire Chief Conference please visit:  
<http://www.michiefs.org/index.php/winterhome>

## Training Opportunity - Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Level 1 National Fire Academy Course

**Date/Time:** February 21 & 22, 2015 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Registration Deadline:** Monday February 16, 2015 @ 5pm

**For more information or to RSVP contact:** Chief Greg Janik at [stfd101@hotmail.com](mailto:stfd101@hotmail.com) or Chief Sarah Bushee-Zawila at [fafd501@gmail.com](mailto:fafd501@gmail.com)

This two-day course is based on the requirements of NFPA Professional Standard 1035 pertaining to the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist Level I.



# The Leader's Role in Decision Making

Lt. Michael McLeieer - Olivet Fire Department

Have you ever asked yourself, what makes a leader a leader? Great leaders understand how to balance emotion with reason and make decisions that positively impact their employees, their customers and stakeholders, their organizations, and themselves. Leadership is a responsibility from the chief officers, company officers, and firefighters. The course and direction a department takes depends on many factors including the training and expertise of its members, the communication, personal encouragement and long-term vision from the command staff and the ability to recruit the right individuals to execute the established goals and objectives which align with the agency's mission.

## Relationship Between Leadership and Decision Making

While leadership and decision making are separate and unique, leadership obviously necessitates decision making, be it on the fire ground or at the station. When we think of what makes someone a great leader, one characteristic that comes to mind is decisiveness. We do not envision successful leaders standing around appearing unclear or uncertain. Instead we view them as people who are able to quickly arrive at their decisions and communicate the goals and objectives to others.

Fire Service leaders often have to make challenging decisions, such as what direction to move their department in; whether to keep an employee, reposition them or let them go; or whether or not to share "bad news" with employees or municipal leaders.

## Three Decision Making Styles:

- **Style A – Autocratic:** The leader makes the decision alone. Discussion is limited to collecting relevant information.
- **Style C – Consulting:** The leader shares the decision issue with one or more subordinates--seeking ideas, opinions, and suggestions--and then makes a decision. All suggestions are carefully and objectively considered by the leader. The final decision may or may not be influenced by subordinate input.
- **Style G - Group Process:** The leader and the subordinates work together (as a group) until they arrive at a consensus decision. (All group members have an equal opportunity to air their opinions and argue for their point of view.) All suggestions are carefully and objectively considered by each group member. All group members accept the final decision and are committed to supporting its implementation.

## Variations in Influence

As the leader moves from Style A to Style G, his/her influence over the final decision drops from 100 percent to almost zero. Yet, no matter which style is used, the leader retains ultimate responsibility and accountability. Thus, it's important to understand when to use various styles in order to maximize potential success.

## Complacency Kills. "We've always done it that way"

The fire service has been built on centuries of tradition. Progressive leaders always look for new, proactive and innovative ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness. Even the best-run departments need to continually evaluate their training, operations and strategic plan to avoid complacency.

Complacency occurs when the organization's mission becomes unclear or is not reinforced and a condition called normalization of deviance develops. Normalization of deviance is a long-term phenomenon in which individuals or teams repeatedly accept a lower standard which becomes



the norm. Usually this occurs because a team is operating under budget and/or time constraints or with performance standards that make deviating from protocol, policy, or process favorable.

Often the team or individual will rely on the underperforming behavior which becomes the norm even after the stress or emergency passes or more resources are available.

To determine the root causes of complacency, leaders must discover the systematic issues that factor in the decision-making. To determine systematic causes in human behavior, we need to ask "Why would an individual or team act in the way that led to the undesired outcome". Effective leaders must ask why continually until they are satisfied they have uncovered as many causal factors as possible. Once leaders understand systemic causes, they can start crafting interventions designed to minimize the chances that personnel will make the same mistake in the future.

### Problem Solving Methods

- The first method is intuitive, which is based on hunches, gut feelings, and is not systematic.
- The second is minimum effort. Judgments are based on a limited number of alternatives. An alternative is selected because it is good enough, rather than the best one. This method is sometimes called "satisficing."
- The third method is politically based. The problem is diagnosed in terms of preferences and power of other parties affected by the decision. Consequences of alternatives are assessed in terms of acceptance or resistance by other parties. Judgments are based on compromise, and implemented in a way that considers stake and political position of involved parties.
- The fourth method is systematic. The problem solver relies on measurable objectives to achieve a goal; has explored all possible alternatives; knows relative pros and cons of each; and always chooses the alternative(s) that maximize(s) the attainment of the goal.

There are a fixed number of steps in the process which makes this method ideal.

Be a leader in your personal life and career by committing to make difficult decisions in a timely manner. The best way you can inspire others to change is by making changes yourself. Practice this process and become a confident leader of yourself and others. At the end of the day, you will save energy and time while remaining calm and make great decisions which will ultimately impact the safety of the firefighters and the community you serve.

## SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES

Thanks to all of you for the continued articles, information photos and comments – your input is important. If you would like to submit articles for the Michigan Fire Service Connection on upcoming events, best practices, awards, you may submit them via e-mail no later than **Monday, March 2, 2015**, to Julie Sworden at [swordenj@michigan.gov](mailto:swordenj@michigan.gov) and Hollie Metts at [mettsh@michigan.gov](mailto:mettsh@michigan.gov). Please be advised that all articles will be prior approved by the State Fire Marshal. All articles published must be submitted in Microsoft Word format.



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[BFS Newsletter Subscription](#)

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